



Wickenburg Area Drainage Master Study/Plan

Background

The Planning Branch of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County (District) prepares comprehensive studies and analyses called Area Drainage Master Studies (ADMS). Locations at risk from existing and future flooding are identified. Regional flood control structures and other methods such as development guidelines are considered to mitigate or reduce the identified flooding hazards. Following this analysis, an Area Drainage Master Plan (ADMP) is developed. The ADMP begins with alternative solutions for the most cost effective and publicly acceptable projects. From these many solutions, one final solution with many drainage elements is recommended. Recommended drainage elements are then prioritized for inclusion in the District's Capital Improvement Program.

Project Overview

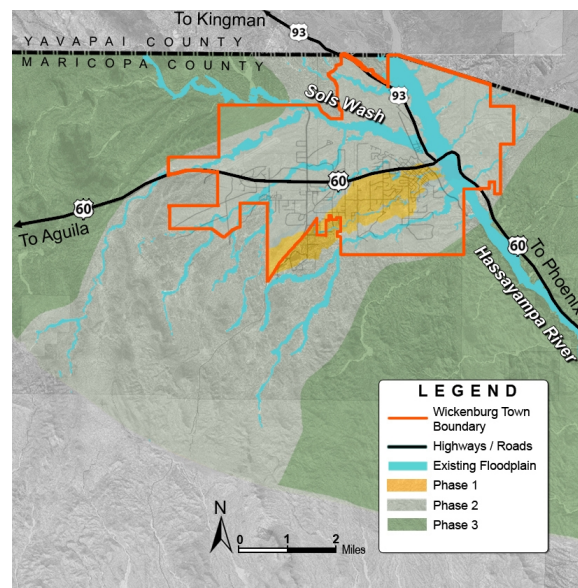
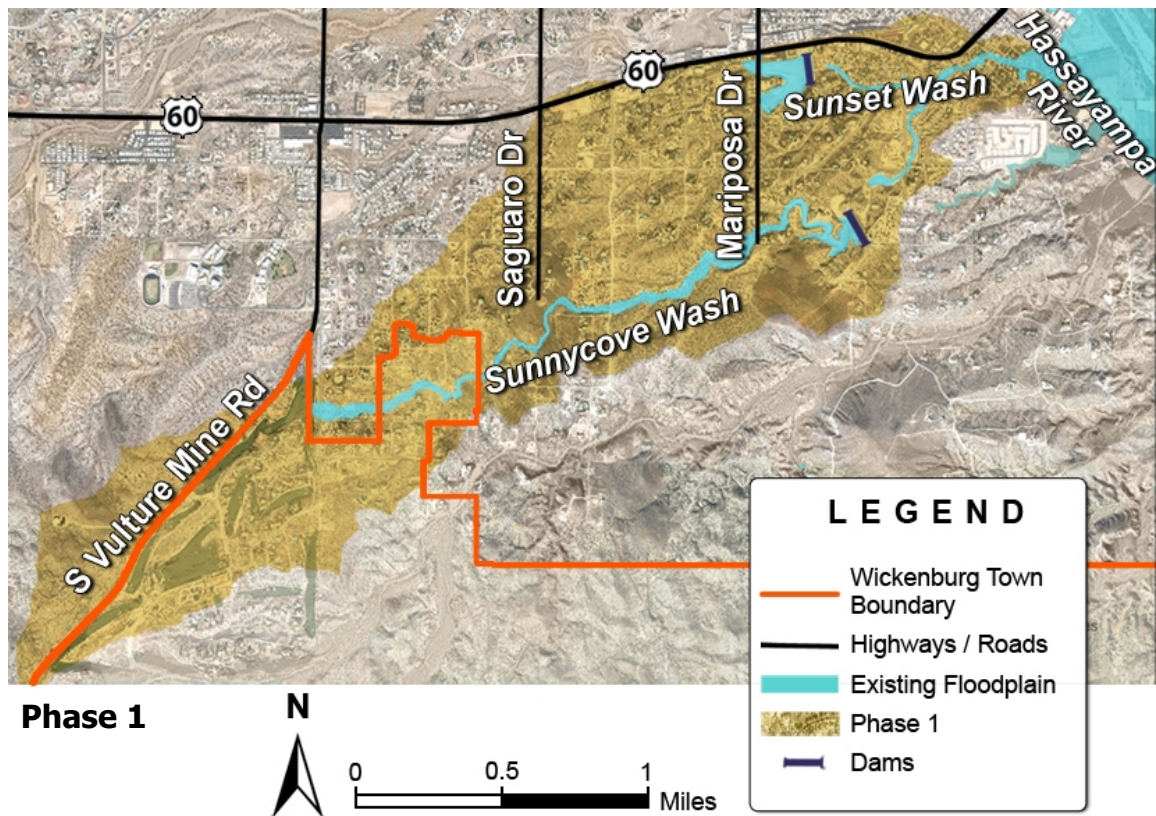
The purpose of the Wickenburg Area Drainage Master Study is to identify known and potential flooding and erosion hazards in the Wickenburg Area. The study is an update of the Wickenburg ADMS completed in 1992. The update is a joint effort between the District, the Town of Wickenburg and a variety of key stakeholders. The study area and its watershed encompass 145 square miles in Maricopa County in and around the Town of Wickenburg.

Due to growth, development and other factors, previous drainage patterns may have been altered in a way that could cause new flooding hazards or may have actually reduced the flooding hazard. In this light, the District is using recent topographic data, new rainfall data and updated modeling techniques to identify flood hazards since the last study. New data and advancements in technology will help the new ADMS provide a more accurate picture of the area's flooding potential and where future flood control measures should be focused.

The study will be completed in three phases. Phase 1 commenced in July 2010 to identify the current floodplain and flood hazards for Sunset Wash and Sunnycove Wash. Initial results including updated proposed floodplain boundaries for the contributing drainage area to these washes will be presented in a public meeting on February 3, 2011. Phase 2 commenced in February 2011 to perform floodplain delineations and flood hazard assessments along approximately 63 linear miles of washes and rivers within and surrounding the Town of Wickenburg. The results of Phase 2 will be presented in a public meeting at the end of 2011. Phase 3, tentatively scheduled to begin in September 2011, will study other areas around Wickenburg. This phase is targeted for completion at the end of 2012.

Study Outcome

After the three study phases, an Area Drainage Master Plan (ADMP) may be conducted to recommend structural methods such as channels and basins, or non-structural methods such as development codes, to help reduce and manage flooding in areas identified with particular flooding concerns. Ultimately, the results will be used to help the District and Town make more informed decisions on future land development, and help guide local developers and property owners in building more safely. This will reduce potential damage to property and loss of life from drainage issues and storm water flooding.



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